

TWIN SPICA

Kou Yaginuma

8

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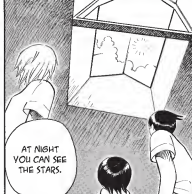
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MISSION:36





AT NIGHT
YOU CAN SEE
THE STARS.



SO
WHAT
?

SKY-
LIGHT!



NO
MATTER
WHERE,
YOU THINK
OF STARS.

QUITE
THE
MANIAC.

THAT'S
WHAT YOU
CHOOSE
TO WORRY
ABOUT
NOW?

GGGZ.



HIH?

TURNING
HER HEAD
FROM THE
STARS IS A
HERCULEAN
TASK.



WE'RE
CURRENTLY
IN
WARD 1.

SEEN FROM
ABOVE,
THERE ARE
3 WARDS
RADIATING
FROM THE
CENTER.



WE'LL DO
THE
TRAINING
HERE,
STARTING
TODAY.

THIS IS AN
ABANDONED
PRISON.



RESPOND
WHEN
YOUR NAME
IS CALLED.

YOU WILL
COOPERATE
WITH YOUR
TEAMMATES
TO COMPLETE
A MISSION.

YOU'LL
BE
DIVIDED
INTO 3
TEAMS,
A, B
AND C.



RU-
CHU-
YA.

HERE.

TEAM B.

OGI-
KI-
RO.



MITAKA.

HERE.

KOKU-
BUNJI.

HERE.

TEAM A.

SHU
SUZUKI.

HE'S
ALWAYS
FIRST!

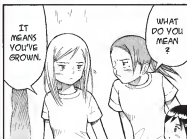
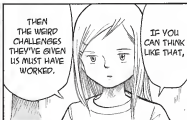


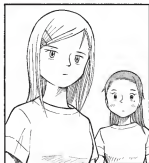














KEI OUMI,
PLEASE
ENTER.

OK.



I'LL DO
MY
ASUMI. BEST,

THANKS
...

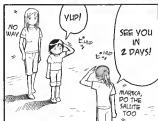


I'DAY
EARLY.
LET'S
TRY.



I THINK
YOU'RE
THE ONE

WHO'S
GROWN
THE
MOST.

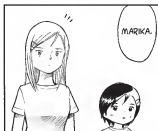


NO
WAY

YUP!

SEE
YOU
IN
2
DAYS!

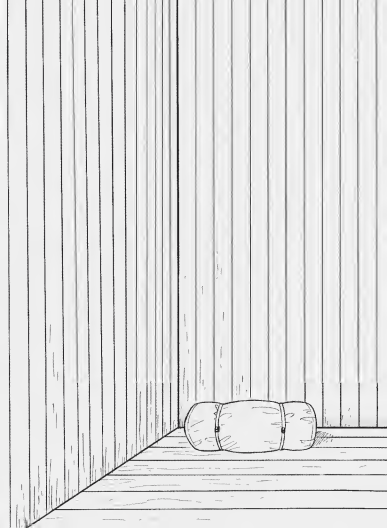
MARIKA,
DO
THE
SALUTE
TOO



MARIKA.









RIGHT NOW
I HAVE TO
FOCUS ON
COMPLETING
THIS MISSION
...



NOT
EVEN A
LAMP.

HIGH
12 CEIL-
FEET, ING.
OR SO.

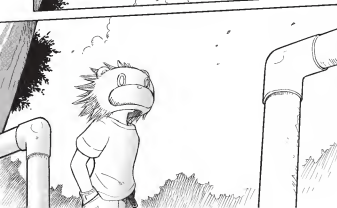


ALL THE
WALLS
ARE
BOARDED
UP.

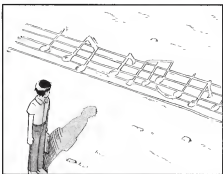


NO WAY
TO LOOK
OUT
THAT
WINDOW.





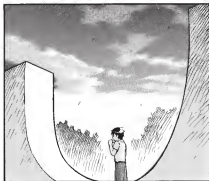






REALLY
GENTLE
SOUNDS.

BUT
YOU
MAKE









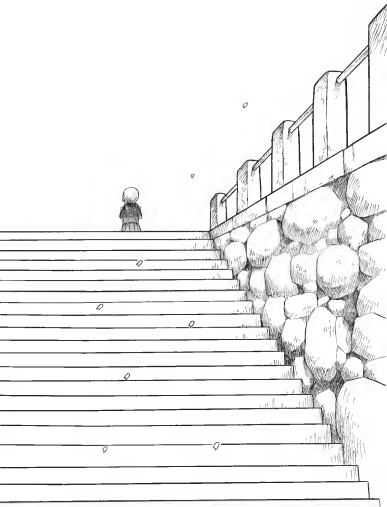


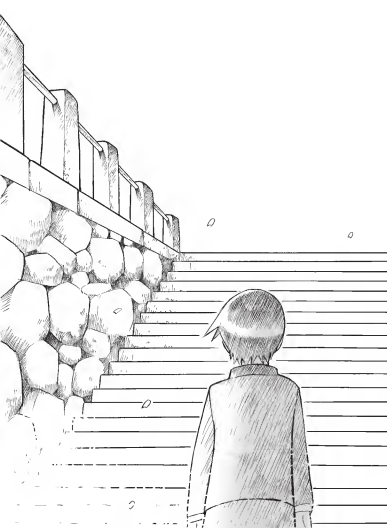
THE
"MR. LION"
THAT
KAMOBAWA
GOES ON
ABOUT

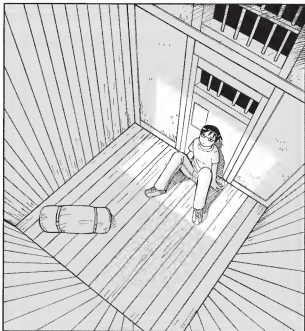
HE
COULD
SEE

















BUT
EVERY TIME
IT'S THE
SAME
FEELING.

I'VE HAD
THE SAME
DREAM
SO MANY
TIMES,

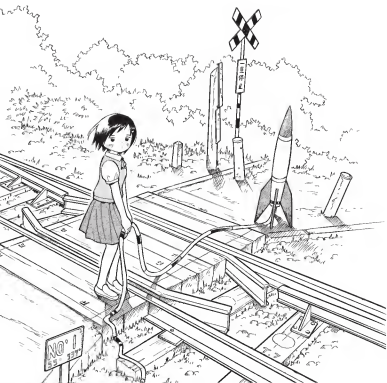
YET
MY CHEST
FEELS
TIGHT.



IT'S
NOT
SAD,

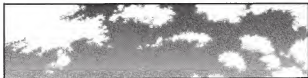


MISSION:37











HUH?



ON THE OTHER HAND, MAYBE THE SCHOOL ADDED SOMETHING TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO ESCAPE.



BUT THE WOOD PANELING IN THE CELLS ALL LOOK KIND OF NEW.



THIS BUILDING IS OLD AND PARTS ARE DETERIORATING.

ONE THING THAT'S BEEN BUGGING ME...



BLUNDER...

SIGH



LIAR

WE DIDN'T END UP WITH ANY PLAN!

WHAT'LL WE DO?!

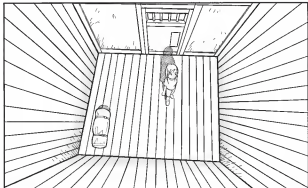


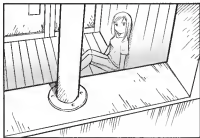
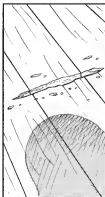
USE THE BATHROOMS AND SHOWERS THEN RETURN TO YOUR CELLS.

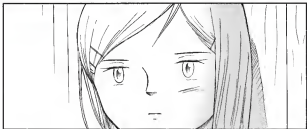
TEAM C, TIME'S UP.

WHAT?!

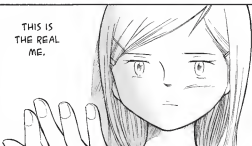
SO SOON?







THIS IS
THE REAL
ME.



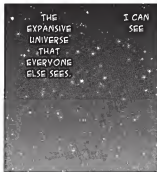
I'M ABLE
TO BELIEVE
I SEE
THE SAME
COLORS AS
EVERYONE
ELSE.

BUT I'M
NOT THE
SAME
AS
BEFORE.



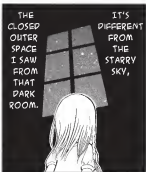
THE
EXPANSIVE
UNIVERSE
THAT
EVERYONE
ELSE SEES.

I CAN
SEE



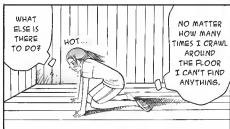
THE
CLOSED
OUTER
SPACE
I SAW
FROM
THAT
DARK
ROOM.

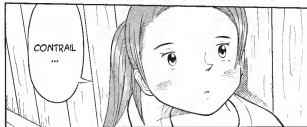
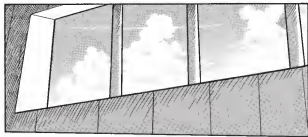
IT'S
DIFFERENT
FROM
THE
STARRY
SKY,



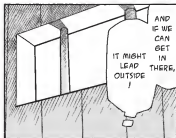


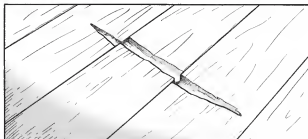


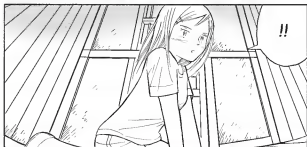






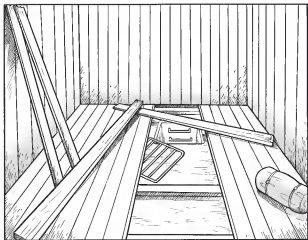














LEAVE US TWO ?!

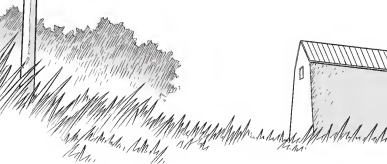




東京宇宙学校

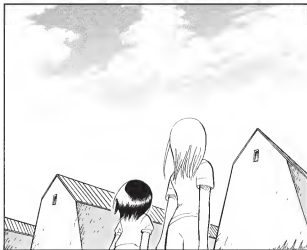
TOKYO SPACE SCHOOL

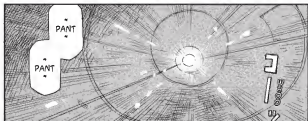
C







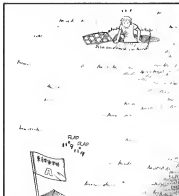








MISSION:38







UNLIKE THE LONG-HAUL ROCKET MISSIONS AIMED FOR MARS, LIKE "THE LION,"

THE SOLAR ENERGY SATELLITE THEY'RE PLANNING AND OTHER SHORT-HAUL MISSIONS



AFTER ALL, THEY'RE THE ONLY GIRLS TO HAVE MADE IT THIS FAR IN THE ASTRONAUT COURSE.

MAYBE THE SCHOOL GROUPED THEM BECAUSE THEY'RE GETTING NOTICED.



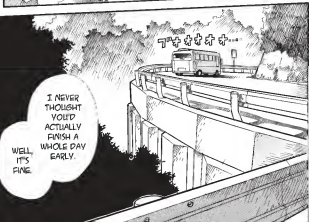
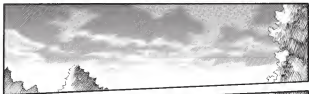
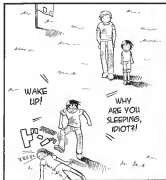
JUST LIKE ASUMI.

WILL NEED AS MUCH STORAGE SPACE AS POSSIBLE. AGILE.











IT SHOWS
THAT YOU
TRULY ARE
EXCELLENT
STUDENTS.



BRACE
YOUR-
SELVES
!!

WE'LL
MAKE
THE NEXT
TRAINING
SESSION
EVEN
HARDER.
I'LL
REPORT
AS MUCH
TO THE
SCHOOL.



BRING
IT ON.
IT'S
WHAT
I
WANT.



THE
HARDER
THE
TRAINING
!

THE
HARDER
WE
TRY,

OERG
!

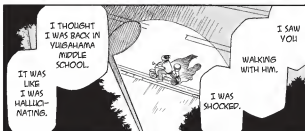
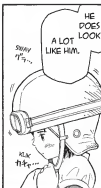


WHY
IS IT
ALWAYS
LIKE
THIS
?!

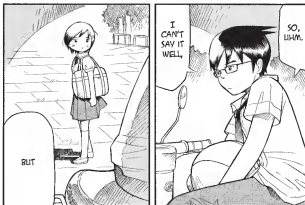


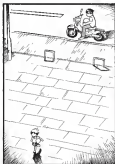
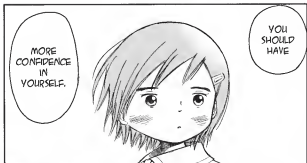


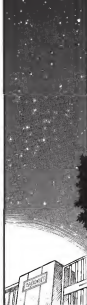




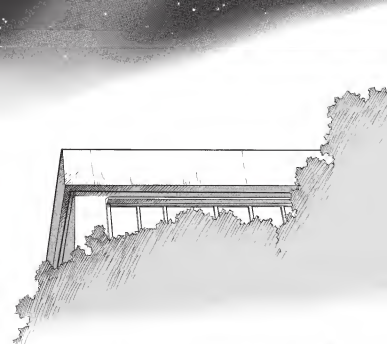










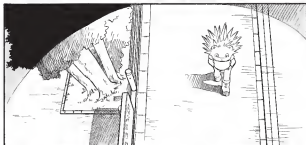




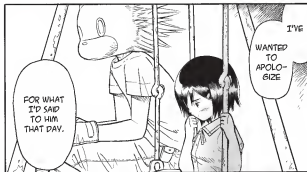








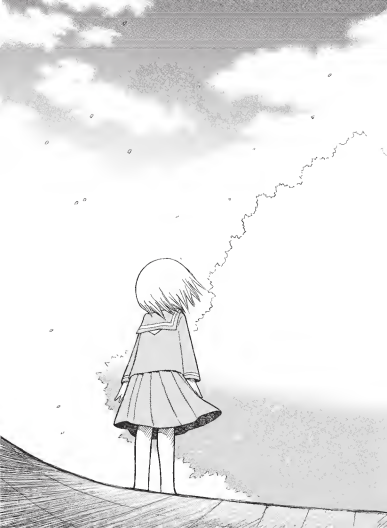


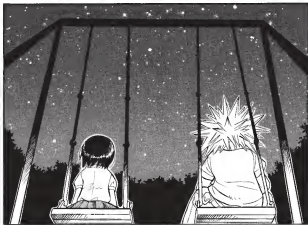
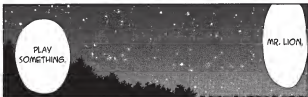




I'VE
ALWAYS,
ALWAYS

WANTED TO
SEE HIM.









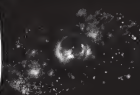






IS A
PHENOMENON
THAT OCCURS
AT THE END OF
A SUN'S LIFE.

A
SUPER-
NOVA,
OR
STELLAR
EXPLOSION



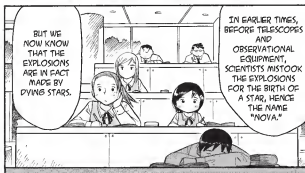
NEARBY
EXPLOSIONS
ARE VISIBLE
WITH THE
NAKED EYE.

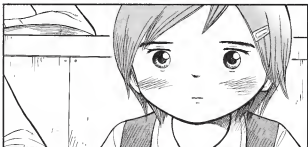
SINCE THE
SUPERNOVAS
ARE
AS BRIGHT
AS AN
ENTIRE
GALAXY,



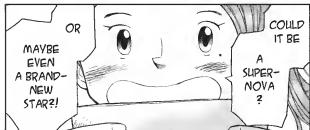
BUT WE
NOW KNOW
THAT THE
EXPLOSIONS
ARE IN FACT
MADE BY
DYING STARS.

IN EARLIER TIMES,
BEFORE TELESCOPES
AND
OBSERVATIONAL
EQUIPMENT,
SCIENTISTS MISTOOK
THE EXPLOSIONS
FOR THE BIRTH OF
A STAR, HENCE
THE NAME
"NOVA."





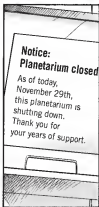


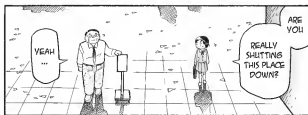


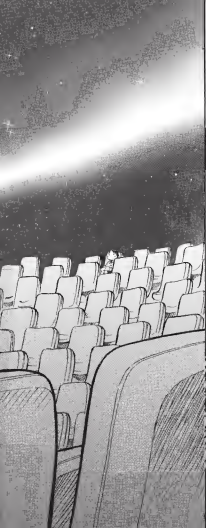


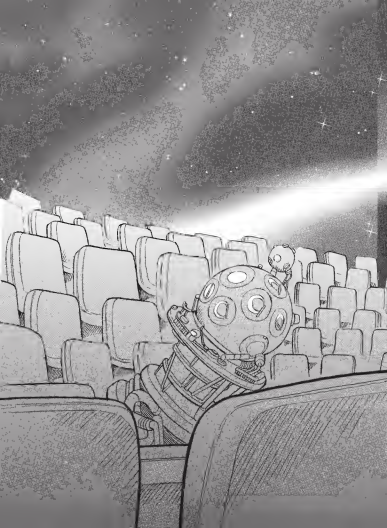




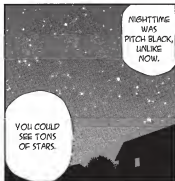


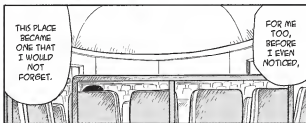




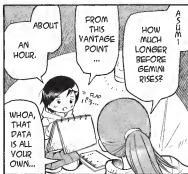


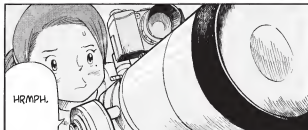
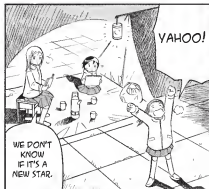






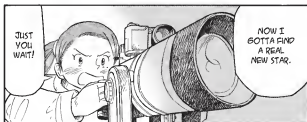


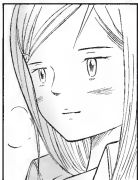
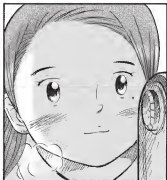














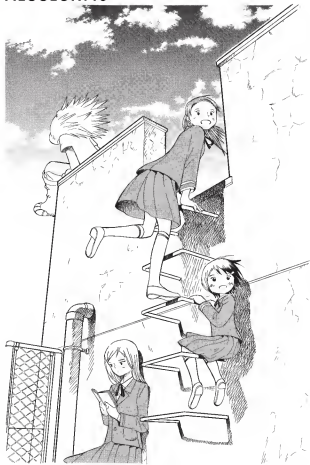


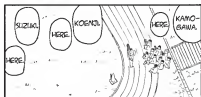
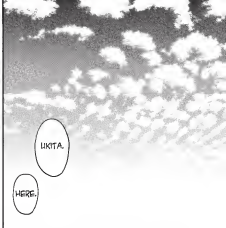






MISSION:40











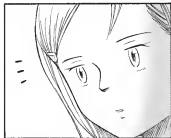
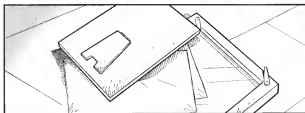


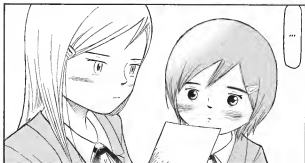




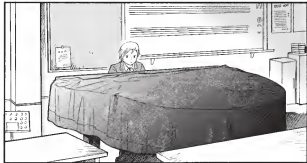
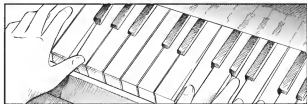
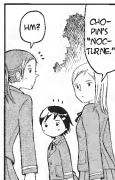














AMERICA,
DID
YOU
SAY
?



YES.

THEY WANT
A JAPANESE
ASTRONAUT
FOR THEIR
UPGRADED
SHUTTLE.



THIS FILE
HAS THE
DETAILS.
PLEASE
LOOK IT
OVER.

THEY NEED
SOMEONE
WHO CAN
SPEAK ENGLISH
WITH GOOD
GRADES, IN
PRACTICAL
TOO.

SO WE'RE
THINKING OF
RECOMMENDING
YOU.



THEY'VE
ASKED
US TO
RECOMMEND
A STUDENT.

THERE'LL BE
A SELECTION
TEST IN
JAPAN NEXT
APRIL.



PARENTS ?



THAT
WILL
BE
OKAY,
RIGHT ?

YOU'LL
NEED
YOUR
PARENTS'
PERMISSION
TO TAKE
THE TEST.

SINCE
YOU'RE
A
MINOR.



THERE'LL
BE MANY
HURDLES
AND IT
COULD BE
TOUGH.

EVEN IF
YOU'RE
ACCEPTED
YOU'LL STILL
NEED CREDITS
AND ADJUST
TO LIFE IN
AMERICA.

THE
COMPETITION
WILL BE
FERCE.

IT'S
UP TO YOU
WHETHER
YOU'LL
PASS.



THINK
IT
OVER.

YOU'VE
GOT
TIME.



BUT THIS KIND
OF CHANCE
IS RARE.
IT'S NOT
A BAD
DEAL.

SO WHY
AM I
HESITATING
?

IT'S THE
ULTIMATE
CHANCE TO
GET CLOSE TO
THE STARS.

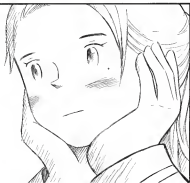
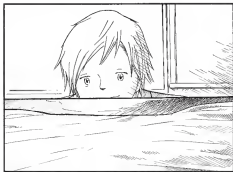


I
GUESS

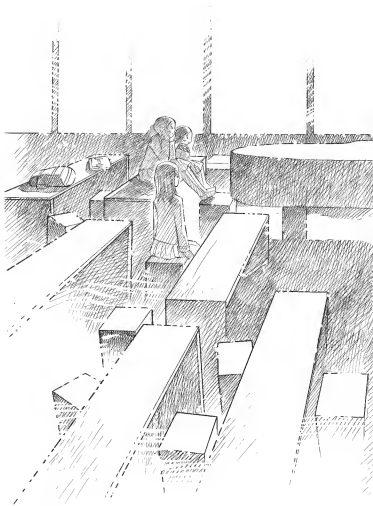
THAT
MUST
BE IT.



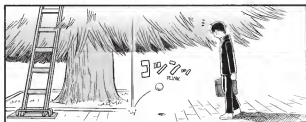






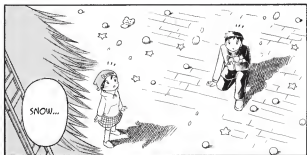


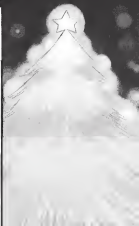




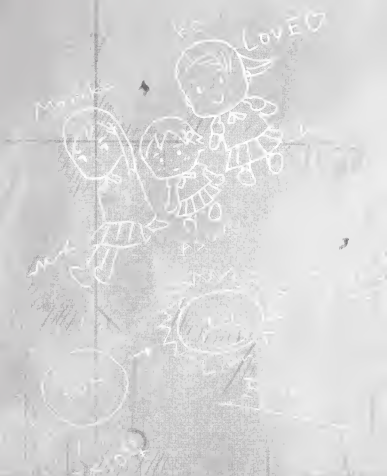






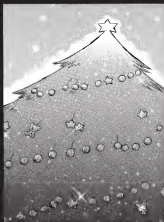






MISSION:41

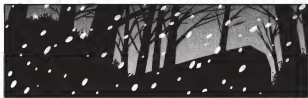




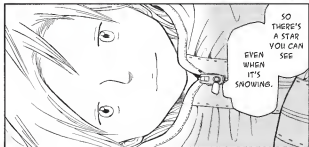








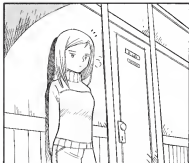




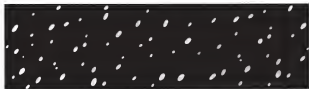




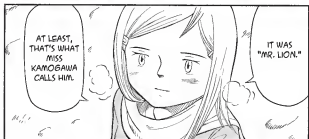






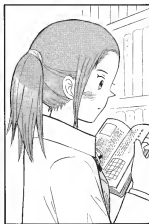




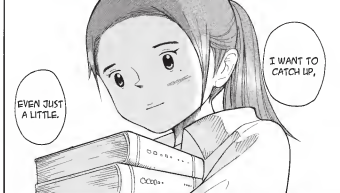






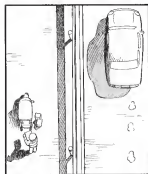


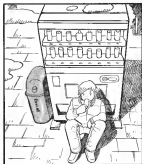




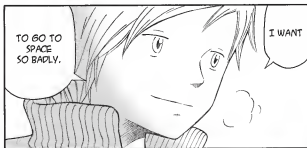












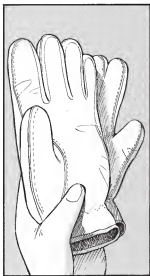




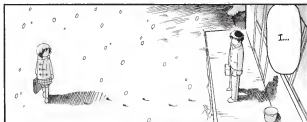


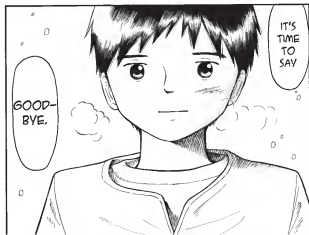


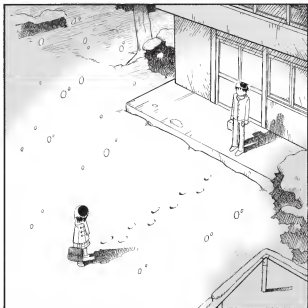








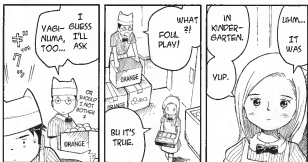
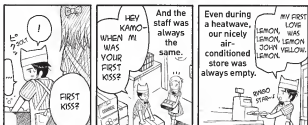
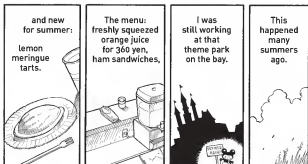




ANOTHER SPICA



KOU YAGINUMA





I wanted to see it in person.



The most memorable was an old train station.

My destinations were the locations used in a film that I liked.



On a glaring summer day

I rented a car and went for a drive.



THIS WAY!
The station I finally found

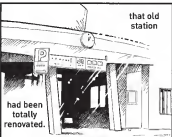


and spent 4 hours on the coastline with map in hand. I got lost along the way



I knew it was just a selfish wish.

I know that quite well.



that old station

had been totally renovated.

I was
recalling
days
I could
never go
back to.



because



But still,
it made
me sad



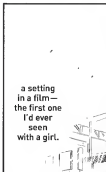
to get
to talk
more.



I wanted
you
and me



a setting
in a film—
the first one
I'd ever
seen
with a girl.

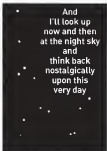


That
station
was



I wanted
you and me
to ride
on the
same
bike.





Notes on the Translation

P. 6

Mitaka, Kokubunji, and Ogikubo are all stations on the Chuo line west of Tokyo. Readers may recall that a string of student names in volume six were taken from stops on the Oume line.



P. 144

"The Flea Waltz," which requires frequent striking of the sharp (i.e. black) keys, is popular worldwide as a piano practice piece. Its name, however, varies from language to language. The Japanese one translates as "I Stepped on a Cat" and has lyrics to go with it as Kei demonstrates.



Production - Hiroko Mizuno
Tomoe Tsutsumi
Rina Nakayama

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"This delightful comic-book epic has everything: plenty of hard science to back up the savvy extrapolation, a believable, likable cast, an enduring mystery, tender moments, isolation and teen angst, dawning true friendships, all wrapped up in a joyous coming-of-age drama with supernatural overtones and gobs of pure sentiment. This tale reinvigorates the magical allure of the Wild Black Yonder for a new generation and is a treat no imagineer with head firmly in the clouds can afford to miss." — *Comics Review* (U.K.)

